Annotated Bibliography

A (cut) Short Story:
Peter wanted to know the names of the birds.
He read a book and learned the names of the birds.
Peter wanted to learn how to swim.
He read a book and drowned.
— from E.C. Basar, R.A. Bonic, et al, Studying Freshman Calculus,

This bibliography consists of books (and other items) that are referenced in this book, books used in the writing this book, or books that I have read that I think readers may be interested in. There is a more complete (and frequently updated) bibliography with more than 300 listings on the web at
http://www.math.cornell.edu/~dwh/biblio

The section names below correspond to a subset of the section names in the bibliography on the web.
The annotations in quotes are taken from the introductory matter, cover, or dust jacket of the book being annotated.

AT  Ancient Texts

al’Khowarizmi, Algebra
This is the world’s first algebra text. An English translation is contained in Karpinski, L.C., ed.,

This is the standard work on conic sections from the Greek world.

“An attempt to recover the original argumentation through a critical translation of the two extant medieval Arabic manuscripts.”

This is translated from the Sanskrit manual for the construction of altars. The beginning of the book contains a textbook of the geometry needed for the construction of the altars — this beginning section is apparently the oldest surviving geometry textbook. See Appendix B and Chapter 13.

“being the only known work of this nearly forgotten Renaissance mathematician (excepting a still unpublished treatise on the division of circles).”